



Course Syllabus: American and Texas Government I
Prothro Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
POLS 1433 Section L21
Fall 2022 (August 22 – December 5, 2022)

Contact Information

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Course Description

Political Science 1433 is an introductory course in American and Texas government and politics that focuses on how the U.S. government and Texas government work and why they work the way they do. The purpose of this course is to assist you in developing a better understanding of the government institutions and the political processes that you will interact with as citizens. This course is also designed to provide you with analytical tools so that you can understand and meaningfully participate in American and Texas politics throughout your life. This course will be challenging and critical thinking about Texas and American government will be part of everything that we do. The syllabus provides a general plan for the course; changes may be necessary.

Mustangs Adventure:

This core course is connected to your MWSU 1230 First Year Seminar that meets on **Fridays at 1:00 PM**. As your instructor for POLS 1433 L21, I also serve as your Faculty Mentor for the First Year Mustangs Adventure. This means that I will visit your seminar class a few times a semester, and I will work with your Peer Educator in selecting Adventures that enhance this core course.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Theodore J Lowi, Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth A. Shepsle, and Stephen Ansolabehere. 2020. ***American Government: Power and Purpose***. 16th Edition. New York: WW Norton. (APP)

Anthony Champagne and Edward J. Harpham. 2020. ***Governing Texas***, 5th Edition. New York: WW Norton. (GT)

Grading

On each assignment, quiz, exam and for the final grade, grades will be assigned according to the following scale

Table 1: Letter Grade

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	0 to 59

Table 2: Semester Grade Breakdown

Item	Percentage of Grade
Exam 1	15
Exam 2	15
Exam 3	20
Project	20
Quizzes	15
Discussion/Engagement	15
Total	100

Communication

The best way to reach me is to contact me via email. My email address is listed on the first page of the syllabus. When emailing me, if you would like a helpful response, you must include your full name, a subject in the subject line, the name of the course in which you are enrolled, and your question. Please use full sentences and not texting language. Individual Zoom or phone appointments can also be set up.

Assignments

Weekly D2L Module Assignments: Each week there will be module activities to complete listed in a checklist such as reading, discussion questions, content to watch, or taking a quiz. Assignments that are graded will appear in the gradebook. Weekly modules can be accessed in D2L by clicking on CONTENT, then COURSE SCHEDULE.

Quizzes

Quizzes will cover recent weekly textbook material. These help make sure students are keeping up with content. No notes, book, cell phones or additional electronic devices may be used during quizzes or exams. You will be required to take your quizzes on a lockdown browser through D2L. If you have previously utilized the lockdown browser with a different school, you may be required to uninstall from your device and reinstall the MSU Texas version. Quizzes can be accessed on D2L by clicking on, ASSESSMENTS, then TESTS.

Exams

All exams are currently planned to be taken in person.

Assignments

Weekly Module Assignments: Each week there will be module activities to complete listed in a checklist such as chapter reading, outlines, flashcards, watching content, and taking a quiz. Assignments that are graded will appear in the gradebook. Weekly modules can be accessed in D2L by clicking on CONTENT, then COURSE SCHEDULE. quizzes can be accessed on D2L by clicking on, ASSESSMENTS, then TESTS.

Project

Brief Overview: Throughout the semester, you will work towards creating an infographic and oral argument about a special interest topic.

Guidelines: A rubric will be provided on D2L as well as more details of guidelines for the project by accessing the D2L Dropbox. To access Dropbox in D2L, click ASSESSMENTS, then ASSIGNMENTS.

Project Due Dates: In order to ensure that you are on track to completing a successful project, portions of the progression toward the project will be due in the D2L Dropbox to be graded. They are as follows:

Table 3: Project Part Due Dates

Project Part and Description	Due Date
Part 1 – Select topic and describe importance of subject using template.	Sept 4th
Part 2 – 3 source summaries and citations added to part 1.	Oct 2nd
Part 3 – 5 additional summaries and citations added to part 2.	Nov 6th
Part 4 – Final infographic (visual) and oral argument/pitch (audio) You will be expected to submit a visual infographic and give an argument explaining the importance of lobbying for the particular subject matter.	Dec 2nd

Make Up Work/Tests

Late work is not accepted. Students who miss class due to university-related activities will be able to make arrangement to take exams early. In cases of a doctor's excuse and/or a family death, other students will also be able to make up exams and writing assignments. It will be at the discretion of the instructor to allow make up work or tests. Please contact the instructor directly to be assessed.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact myself.

Class Policies

Engagement: Engagement in discussion is an important component of the in-person course. Preparedness and participation, as well as non-engagement will be noted.

Absence: It is your responsibility to keep up to date with the course should you need to miss class whether excused or unexcused. **Students missing more than 3 unexcused days of class will be at risk of being dropped from the course.** To be considered an excused absence, a student must have documentation sent from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, or Athletics regarding required travel. Excuses will not be accepted for missing a quiz or exam unless student is hospitalized or other special circumstance at discretion of the instructor.

The Learning Environment: Students are expected to be respectful of their classmates and instructor at all times during this course. Students should be respectful of their instructor and classmates' identities and backgrounds, such as racial, ethnic, and class backgrounds; religious and political beliefs; language, national origin, and migration or refugee status; sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity.

This syllabus serves as written notice that harassing or disruptive behavior, either verbal, non-verbal or written, will not be tolerated in the course and that actions will be subject to the disruptive behavior policy.

Disruptive Behavior:

Disruptive behavior, including but not limited to using vulgarity, threatening the instructor or classmates, excessive intentional comments that are meant to troll other classmates that disrupt the class will not be tolerated. This syllabus serves as the warning that such behavior will not be tolerated. Students committing disruptive behavior will be removed from the class.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2022-23](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's, to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. **After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations**

should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140.

Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Title IX

At Midwestern State University, the Title IX Department provides students, faculty, and staff with access to their rights and options under Title IX. The Title IX Department conducts investigations into possible violations of MSU's Sexual Misconduct Policy, as well as oversees the university's primary prevention and education programming related to sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and sexual harassment. To find out more or make a report please visit [Title IX](#).

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Table 4: Brief Overview of Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assigned Date	Due Date
1	<i>Introduction and Five Principles of Politics</i> Reading: APP – Ch 1 (Wed) (Fri)	8/22/22	8/28/22
2	<i>Congress Part 1</i> Reading: APP – Ch 6 Project Part 1 – Topic Selection	8/29/22	9/4/22
3	<i>Congress Continued</i> <i>No Class on Monday, Sept 5 – Labor Day</i> Reading: APP – Ch 6 (Wed) (Fri)	9/5/22	9/11/22
4	<i>The Presidency as an Institution + The Executive Branch</i> Reading: APP – Ch 7 (Mon) (Wed) Reading: APP – Ch 8 (Fri)	9/12/22	9/18/22
5	<i>The Executive Branch</i> Reading: APP – Ch 8 Review (Wed) and Exam 1 (Fri)	9/19/22	9/25/22
6	<i>The Federal Courts</i> Reading: APP – Ch 9 Project Part 2 - Submission	9/26/22	10/2/22
7	<i>The Federal Courts Pt 2 (MIDTERM)</i> Reading: APP – Ch 9	10/3/22	10/9/22
8	<i>Civil Liberties & Civil Rights</i> Reading: APP – Ch 4 (Mon & Wed) Reading: APP – Ch 5 (Fri)	10/10/22	10/16/22
9	<i>Civil Rights</i> Reading: APP – Ch 5 (Mon) Review (Wed) and Exam 2 (Fri)	10/17/22	10/23/22
10	<i>Texas Legislature</i> Reading: GT – Ch 7	10/24/22	10/30/22
11	<i>Texas Executive Branch</i> Reading: GT – Ch 8 Project Part 3 - Submission	10/31/22	11/6/22
12	<i>Election Day & Texas Judiciary</i> Reading: GT – Ch 9	11/7/22	11/13/22
13	Local Government Reading: GT – Ch 10	11/14/22	11/20/22
14	Review (Mon) – Nov 22nd <i>No Class on Nov 23 – 25 – Thanksgiving Break</i>	11/22/22	11/27/22
15	Exam 3 (Mon) Course Project Presentations (Infographic & Pitch) (Wed & Fri)	11/28/22	12/2/22
16	Final (12-05-22 @ 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM)		12/05/22